



CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS
HERITAGE TRUST

CCGHT Activity Newsletter

Issue 2



April 2010



CCGHT gives Économusée

project the green light!



ENE – Économusée Northern Europe Project

CCGHT has recently joined the Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013 as the lead partner in Northern Ireland to develop a project called Économusée Northern Europe. This project will combine culture, craft and tourism to create an economy platform for craft artisans practicing traditional techniques in order to help crafts survive and create new jobs. CCGHT are working with two artisans, namely Marion Woodburn Jewellery in Galgorm and Michael Scullion of Scullion Hurls in Loughguile, to develop their craft workshops, attracting tourists to encourage them to learn more about traditional crafts. This is a fully funded programme, with contributions from both the European

Union and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board. Sarah, our Sustainable Development Officer (Tourism) and Marion Woodburn are travelling to Quebec City in April with the Programme to visit best practise examples of Economuseums that are self-sustaining craft companies.

This project will enhance CCGHT's international relationship, raising awareness of the Trust to countries such as Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and The Faroe Islands. This project will also yield benefits through knowledge sharing and best practice examples, which will have a filter effect on the wider community.



Director's Report

Welcome to the second activity report and newsletter for the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust. We commence a new financial year with a lot of uncertainty in terms of our financial resources and our future as a Trust. However, what is clear is that the environment, our landscape, has an important and increasing role to play to help sustain the local economy and support people's endeavours, especially in this International Year of Biodiversity. It is this work that the Trust is heavily involved with. However, we need support to develop ideas and projects that can translate directly on the ground. This takes time and there is a need for a clear framework to allow this developmental phase to take place. I am therefore delighted and excited to seek the Board's approval for the new Strategy and Business Plan 2010/2011 to 2012/2013. This strategy places the environment at the heart of everything we do and looks at our partners to support the activities of the Trust to deliver a sustainable and holistic approach to landscape management for the whole area. To this end, I am pleased to report that an application has been submitted to the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for a project that looks at the joint working of both the Causeway Coast AONB and World Heritage Site management groups, and their associated partners, to develop an innovative approach to management planning and community/stakeholder engagement. This follows on from a letter of intent from NIEA to support the project and an application to the Crown Estate, which was not successful. Work is also continuing on a LIFE+ European project (Booming Business) in the Antrim Hills to compliment the proposals under HLF's Landscape Partnership Scheme project application – Heart of the Glens. We are also hoping to hear from our application to INTERREG IVA – One Environment One Future. Project development is high risk in terms of allocating resources (staff, time and financial) with no guarantee that the efforts made to submit an application will be successful. There is a need to balance this work between our core activities and securing funding from a number of different and varied sources for our project work. To this end the Strategy and Business Plan looks at addressing this and, under the action plan, we will be looking at the feasibility of charitable status for the Trust. We also have a student, Andrew Wallace, who will be looking at how we can make the links between businesses, the environment and communities for mutual benefits.

Helen Noble

Trust Director





Project Updates

Heart of the Glens

The Heart of the Glens, HLF application is still in the running! We are hoping to hear the outcome of this funding application by the end of April. It is currently being considered along with all the other applications from Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. We are currently entering year three of our five year management plan

and have formed a sub group to review the Action Plan to date, and to priorities the next years' actions for the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB, taking into account the current resources available. We are hoping that this will help develop a coordinated push by all our partners to help deliver actions for the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.



The next issue of the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB newsletter featuring an article on Red Squirrels in the Glens will be circulated in May 2010.

CCGHT staff has recently distributed various publications produced by the Trust to some accommodation providers and all Tourist Information Centres throughout N. Ireland including posters, postcards, topic leaflets, AONB introductory leaflets and newsletters. Positive feedback has been received from some of the TICs, especially those further afield. Contact the CCGHT office to forward suggestions for literature drop off points.

Causeway Coastal Route Interpretation Project

The Causeway Coastal Route Interpretation Project is progressing in its development. A final Terms of Reference of Pre-Development Work which outlines the Full Turnkey Interpretation Package for the Signature Project has



been finalised and consultants have been appointed by NITB. CCGHT as project co-ordinators have just submitted 5 individual applications into the Rural Development Programme, under Measure 3.3 Encouragement of Tourism Activities to allow for match funding. These include 4 sites under the National

Trust and CCGHT's own application for Strategic Interpretative Benches to be erected at Gortmore, Ballintoy, Glenarm, Portstewart and Ballycastle. These benches will allow visitors to interact with the landscape, helping them to learn about the history and geology of the landscape, with information provided on each bench along the particular sites.



Binevenagh AONB News

Everyone's hard work has finally paid off, the Binevenagh AONB Management Plan and Action Plan went live on the 1st April, copies are available on the website. A user friendly summary

document of the management plan is currently with the designers and will be available shortly. A big thank you to everyone who helped us get to this point. The State of the AONB report is currently being developed to complete the suite of AONB Management documents, and will be published on the CCGHT website in the near future. In order to keep the momentum going, a sub group is being formed to prioritise the actions for

year 1, so we can focus the resources currently available to delivering action for the AONB. The management plan will also feature in the next issue of Coast Magazine, produced by Northern Ireland Environment Agency.



A number of postcards produced by the Trust using the images from the Picture This projects are available from the CCGHT office.

CCGHT Staff Handbook

CCGHT staff are currently drafting a new Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust Staff Handbook which will include job descriptions, terms and conditions of employment, various CCGHT policies and operational guidelines. The handbook will be produced in-house and is due to be completed before the Annual General Meeting in June 2010.



Updates

Causeway Coast AONB

A letter of intent has been received from NIEA stating that it intends to offer financial assistance for 3 years for a Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast Management Officer; the total value is £52,694. The Trust is currently applying for match funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. This new post will be responsible for co-ordinating the activi-

ties of the WHS and reviewing the management plans for the Causeway Coast AONB and the WHS and will work closely with key partners and the local community. Like the other two AONBs a sub group is being established to prioritise the forthcoming years' actions for the Causeway Coast AONB, pulling out key actions from the management plan that

can be delivered with the current resources available.



STAFF CHANGES

CCGHT Staff and Board wish Gráinne O'Connor lots of success with her new post as Environment Officer with Fermanagh District Council. Although Gráinne was only with the Trust since November 09 she has made a lasting impression, kicking off a few enterprising projects which will generate funding for the area and for the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust.

EUROPARC FEDERATION
EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN PROTECTED AREAS




EU Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas CCGHT are progressing with the implementation of the Charter Part 1. We are engaging with the local tourism businesses, local communities and key stakeholders involved within the Causeway Coast and Glens area to establish a Sustainable Tourism Forum across the 3 AONBs. The Charter will increase

awareness of and support for Europe's protected areas while improving the sustainable development and management of tourism. With a Forum established, we can progress with developing a Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan across the 3 AONBs that engages with all stakeholders involved in the area.



Rural Development Programme

5 RDP Applications under Measure 3.3 Encouragement of Tourist Activities have been submitted to the North Easter Cluster. CCGHT have submitted 4 on behalf of the National Trust for 4 individual sites in relation to the CCR Interpretation project. These sites are at Portstewart Strand, Cushendun Village, Musenden Temple and Rathlin Island. An application has also been submitted to put

up Strategic Interpretative Benches along Ballycastle, Gortmore, Glenarm, Portstewart and Ballintoy. This is a CCGHT owned project that aims to allow for visitors to interact with the landscape, interpreting the history and geology of the landscape whilst guiding them along the Causeway Coastal Route. CCGHT are awaiting the outcome of the EU Charter application after a financial projection was submitted for economic appraisal in February 2010.

Sarah joins the CCGHT team!

Sarah Irwin has just recently joined the CCGHT as their Sustainable Development (Tourism) Officer. Sarah completed a Masters at Queen's University Belfast in Leadership for Sustainable Development. Sarah has worked for WWF Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Energy Services Unit. She worked for CCGHT from June last year until October, working on implementing the EU Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas. She developed a Sustainable Tourism Business Toolkit for local businesses, to engage them in sustainable tourism practises. Sarah also attended the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen in December 2009 as part of the UK Youth Climate Coalition.



CCGHT welcomes Sarah to the team and would like to wish her success in her new post as Sustainable Development (Tourism) Officer.

Any Other Business



CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS
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CCGHT 2010/2011 Funding Update

Confirmed 2010/11 Core Funding:

Ballymena Borough Council	£11,000
Larne Borough Council	£11,000
Moyle District Council	£11,000
NI Environment Agency	£109,000 (Note this has been reduced from £120,000 as was reported in previous report)

On the date of publishing Limavady BC and Coleraine BC had not confirmed 2010/11 core funding.

2010/11 is the final year of the 3-year NITB/CCGHT Service Level Agreement

FUNDING SECURED - Three years funding has been secured through NIEA at 75% for the AONB Officer post, commencing 1 April 2010, which will be a real boost to the three AONBs currently within CCGHT's remit.

Student Placement Projects

CCGHT currently has a number of University placement students based in our office undertaking some very important pieces of work.



Heather Bell, who featured in the first issue of the CCGHT Activity Newsletter is working on a Junior Ranger project. Heather updated the AONB management groups at the meetings in March.



Kerrie Norton is carrying out a study of the socio-economic status of the three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty which the Trust look after. She is investigating any variations in socio-economic status within each area; how the status of the three AONBs compare to each other; and how the three areas compare to Northern Ireland as a whole. She will be using data mainly collected in the 2001 census, and will also be using GIS to present her research.

Andrew Wallace will be investigating the link between businesses, the environment and local communities.

Jerome Fullan completed a State of the AONB Report for the Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Joanne Pollock, who worked on the Birds of Binevenagh AONB guide, also completed a State of the AONB Report for the Binevenagh AONB.

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Hayley Sherwin completed a Biodiversity Audit for the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB.

These very worthwhile reports will be added to the publications section of the CCGHT website.

Photographic Credits:
Picture This! Projects
CCGHT, Coleraine BC,
Glasshouse Design

We're on the web! www.ccght.org
Or search on Facebook for:
Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust



Pupils from six primary schools in the Causeway Coast & Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty are eagerly anticipating the launch of the book, Finn's Gallery which will illustrate over sixty photographs taken by the children in the recent Picture This! 20 years of the Causeway Coast AONB. CCGHT gratefully acknowledge 75% funding from Heritage Lottery Fund for the project. Paul Mullan from HLF in his foreword for the book commented:

'It has been 20 years since the Causeway Coast was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the images captured by the children and contained within this book allow us all to take a fresh look, through their eyes, at our amazing local landscapes.'

Finn's Gallery is due to be launched in early May at the new Village Hall in Portballintrae. Invitations will be sent to Board members, schools, politicians, HLF, NIEA, NITB and other partnerships. We would appreciate your support at this event. It will be an opportunity to meet some of the young photographers and receive your free copy of the book.

The next issue of NIEA Coast magazine will feature an article on the CCGHT Picture This project.

Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust is grateful for support from:

